

REMARKS

Introduction

This application is a continuation of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/858,457, filed May 16, 2001.

The specification has been amended to include references to the parent application and two provisional applications from which the instant application claims priority. The specification also has been amended to address informalities noted by a Patent and Trademark Office examiner in the parent application. Applicants have amended the drawings to include or correct reference numerals. Applicants have canceled claims 1-81, which were presented in the parent application. Applicants have added claims 82-119. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments.

Amendments of the Specification

The specification was amended as follows to remove informalities:

In paragraph [0001], the application number and status of a priority document were not included. Applicants have amended the specification to include that information.

In paragraph [0081] reference number 614 was changed to 64.

Paragraph [0086] was amended to refer to a "third position[.]"

In paragraph [0087], figure numbers 14a, 14b, 14c and 14d were changed to 16a, 16b, 16c and 16d.

Applicants respectfully note that FIG. 13 shows a transitional portion of spring arm 428 that has varying thickness and extends between recessed portion 436 and base 426. Notch 432 is present at the intersection of the transitional portion and recessed portion 436. Nonetheless, applicants have amended FIG. 13 to extend the lead line from reference numeral 432 closer to the notch.

Applicants have amended paragraph [0088] to identify element 434 as a "stem portion" and state that in some embodiments, though not shown, the stem portion may be arcuate.

In paragraph [0089], applicants have included a reference to a "groove" and have corrected the spelling of "pierce."

In paragraph [0097] reference numerals 220, 234 and 236 have been changed to 400, 410 and 412, respectively.

In paragraph [0098] and in paragraph [0099], applicants have corrected the spelling of "and" and "protrusion," respectively.

In paragraph [0102] and in paragraph [0103], reference numerals 62 and 50 have been changed to 702 and 700, respectively.

Paragraph [0108] has been updated to reflect the issuance of U.S. Patent 6,561,347.

In paragraph [0122] and in paragraph [0123], figure numbers 15, 18 and 15 have been changed to 35, 38, and 35 respectively.

In paragraph [0128] and in paragraph [0133], reference numerals 260, 304 and 306 have been replaced with 262, 294 and 296, respectively.

In paragraph [0136], the third occurrence of reference numeral 348 has been changed to 352, and reference numeral 352 has been changed to 348.

In paragraph [0138], reference numeral 344 has been changed to 358, reference numeral 340 has been changed to 354, and reference numerals 346, 348 have been changed to 360, 362, respectively.

In paragraph [0140], reference numeral 150 has been deleted.

Paragraphs [0146] and [0148] were amended to include figure references and reference numerals.

In paragraph [0149], reference numeral 440 has been changed to 4400.

Applicants have further amended the specification to provide proper antecedent basis for the "groove" of claim 33 and the "third position" of claim 49, now canceled.

Applicants have amended paragraph [0089] to provide antecedent basis for a "groove."

Applicants have amended paragraph [0086] to provide antecedent basis for a "third position." (The amendment also provides antecedent basis for "base 426" in the same paragraph. A grammatical amendment was therefore required at that location.)

The foregoing amendments of the disclosure and FIG. 13 introduce no new matter.

Amendments of the Drawings

Applicants have amended the drawings to include and correct reference numerals as follows.

In FIG. 3, previously omitted reference numeral 706 has been added.

In FIG. 8, previously omitted reference numeral 208b has been added.

In FIGS. 16a-16e, one of the reference numerals 428 has been changed to 422.

In FIG. 16d, reference numeral 456 has been changed to 454.

In FIG. 19, previously omitted reference numeral 401 has been added.

In FIG. 47, previously omitted reference numeral 316 has been added.

In FIG. 52, reference numeral 60 has been changed to 606.

In FIG. 56, reference numeral 570 has been changed to 461.

In FIG. 57, previously omitted reference numeral 4400 has been added.

The amendments of the drawings introduce no new matter.

Applicants have amended paragraph [0146] to refer to FIGS. 12 or 13 in connection with reference numerals 406, 408.

Applicants have paragraph [0148] to change reference numeral 568 to 461 and therefore there is no longer a reference numeral 568 in the specification.

Conclusion

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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